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Letter dated 21 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the document entitled "Strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations system and Central Africa in the maintenance of peace and security" which will serve as a background note for the public meeting of the Security Council on 22 October 2002 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Martin **Belinga-Eboutou**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 21 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Background note from the President

Public meeting of the Security Council on the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations system and Central Africa in the maintenance of peace and security

The problem

Despite enormous potential and vast mineral, water and agricultural resources, Central Africa in the broad sense (Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, the Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe) has been slow in embarking on its economic and social development, and projects to the world the least positive image of all the subregions of Africa.

A region that for at least two decades has been racked by civil wars and wars between States, Central Africa has the sorry record of seven of its 11 countries being racked by particularly devastating and ruinous conflicts.

Five peacekeeping, peace-building or peacemaking missions out of the 12 missions under way on the continent are established in or working for the subregion.[1] This is evidence of chronic instability, both socio-politically and in security terms. Moreover, of the score or so of special representatives and envoys and personal representatives and envoys of the Secretary-General in Africa, six are in Central Africa.

This discouraging picture confirms the urgency of the States of the region and the international community focusing on the evils afflicting this key region of Africa.

Indeed, considerable efforts have to date been made by the States of the region, both on their own initiative and with the support of the international community.

Regional cooperation is based on a tripod comprising:

The Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), comprising Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and the Republic of the Congo;

The Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), comprising Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda;

The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), comprising Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, the Republic of the Congo,

[1] The United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), the United Nations Office in Angola (UNOA), the United Nations Office in Burundi (UNOB), the United Nations Peace-Building Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA) and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region.

Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe. ECCAS is recognized by the African Union as one of the five regional economic communities and enjoys observer status with the United Nations.

The least that can be said is that these subregional structures have not permitted real physical, economic and political integration, inter alia because of the persistence of conflicts, the inadequacy of the institutional and human capacity (particularly directed towards the process of integration) and the slowness in implementing the political commitments on the subject entered into at the highest level.

For the past few years increasing collective awareness among the States of the subregion has been apparent, and this has permitted a revival of the activities of ECCAS, which was virtually inactive from 1992 to 1998. This process of revival benefited from the contribution of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to redefining the functions of ECCAS, which in this context has undertaken a real qualitative change in its activities with the incorporation of a collective security component and the establishment of a post of Deputy Secretary responsible for this subject. The strengthening of collective awareness has also benefited the work of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa.

Since then, important decisions on collective security have been taken in this area. These include inter alia the conclusion of the Protocol establishing the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX), comprising a Non-Aggression Pact and a Mutual Assistance Pact.

COPAX, whose objective, in partnership with the United Nations, is to prevent, manage and settle conflicts in Central Africa, is based on the following organs:

The Central African Early Warning System;

The Defence and Security Commission;

The Central African Multinational Force.

The region appears to be gradually emerging from the conflicts that have been affecting it for more than 20 years, and this poses the immediate problem of building peace, with a requirement for the mobilization of major resources to support the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration operations.

Objectives

The public meeting of the Security Council on 22 October on cooperation between the United Nations system and Central Africa in the area of conflict prevention and the maintenance of peace and security is aimed inter alia at:

Promoting and strengthening the partnership between the United Nations system and Central Africa in relation to the maintenance of peace and security, in order to raise it at least to the level of what is being done between the United Nations and other regions of Africa and the world;

Strengthening capacities in the subregion, inter alia in the area of conflict prevention and the maintenance of peace and security, as well as economic integration;

Improving the effectiveness, coordination and cohesion of the subregional organizations in Central Africa;

Mobilizing the resources required to build peace in the subregion.

Expected results

A presidential statement in which the Council would request the Secretary-General to report to it on the situation in Central Africa, with his recommendations, taking into account the views and expectations expressed during the discussions by States and by other international institutions;

Success in giving Central Africa the capacity conducive to its taking over the task of conflict management and resolution and enabling it to play a pivotal role in African integration commensurate with its potential and its geostrategic location.

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Twelfth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1417 (2002) of 14 June 2002, by which the Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) until 30 June 2003 and to review progress every four months on the basis of reports of the Secretary-General. It describes developments until 11 October 2002, since my report of 5 June (S/2002/621) and the special report (S/2002/1005) which I submitted to the Council on 10 September 2002, following the agreements concluded recently in Pretoria and Luanda between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Governments of Rwanda and Uganda, respectively.

II. Political developments

2. The period under review witnessed a number of significant political and military developments, in particular the signing of the bilateral agreements in Pretoria and Luanda, and the troop withdrawals undertaken by Angola, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe (see paras. 8-10). These developments occurred while consultations among the Congolese parties on the establishment of a transitional government continued.

Inter-Congolese dialogue

3. The initial round of consultations among the signatories of the agreement concluded at Sun City, on the sidelines of the inter-Congolese dialogue, commenced at Matadi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, in May. The talks, which ended on 6 July, highlighted serious differences between the Mouvement de libération du Congo (MLC) and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo concerning, in particular, the power-sharing arrangements for the Supreme Council of Defence and the procedure for designating the Prime Minister. In August, however, the participants reached agreement on the 167 articles of the transitional constitution.

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4. At my request, my Special Envoy, Moustapha Niasse, undertook an exploratory mission to the region from 13 to 30 June 2002 to ascertain the possibility of helping the Congolese parties to reach an all-inclusive political agreement. The Special Envoy began his mission in Lusaka and Addis Ababa, where he met the Chairman and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity. He then visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo for discussions with President Joseph Kabila, Jean-Pierre Bemba of MLC and the leadership of the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD)-Goma. In Kinshasa, and later in Matadi, the Special Envoy met with political parties, representatives of civil society, and some armed groups. Subsequently, the Special Envoy visited Sir Ketumile Masire, the facilitator of the inter-Congolese dialogue, in Gaborone, as well as the Presidents of Gabon, Rwanda, South Africa and Zimbabwe, and the Foreign Minister of Angola, in their respective capitals.

5. My Special Envoy's interlocutors stressed the need to reach an all-inclusive agreement and expressed their readiness to continue informal discussions under his auspices, on the understanding that any agreement reached informally would then have to be endorsed by the inter-Congolese dialogue.

6. During the second phase of his mission, from 9 July to 17 August, the Special Envoy discussed with his Congolese interlocutors their views pertaining to power-sharing during the transition and, in particular, the structure of the transitional institutions and the distribution of responsibilities among the various State organs. He asked them to base their proposals in this regard on the objectives and principles agreed upon at Sun City.

7. On 3 September, my Special Envoy started the third phase of his mission. The Government and the RCD-Goma delegations, which have been meeting in Pretoria since mid-September, seem to have reached a common understanding on a government structure and power-sharing formula. MLC has clarified its position in this regard and has had bilateral consultations with the Government and other parties. On 2 October, some representatives of the political opposition and civil society held consultations in Pretoria under the auspices of the Government of South Africa. My Special Envoy believes that the Congolese parties are close to reaching a political settlement acceptable to all.

Developments in the wake of the Pretoria and Luanda agreements

8. My special report on MONUC provided information on the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Since then, the Ugandan withdrawal has continued and all Uganda People's Defence Forces personnel, numbering 2,287, with the exception of a reinforced battalion stationed at Bunia and troops patrolling the western slopes of the Ruwenzori Mountains, have now withdrawn from the country.

9. The Zimbabwe Defence Forces have also continued to withdraw. The total number of their repatriated forces as at 11 October was 3,477. A small number of Angolan military forces withdrew at the same time. In addition, it was reported that, as at 11 October, 700 troops of the Forces armées burundaises had been withdrawn from the country.

10. Most significant has been the withdrawal of the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA), which commenced on 17 September. According to information verified by

MONUC, as at 11 October, the total number of RPA forces withdrawn from the Democratic Republic of the Congo stood at 20,941. The withdrawal, which began in Kindu/Kalima, was subsequently extended to the remainder of Maniema Province, as well as to Katanga and North and South Kivu. There were withdrawals from a total of 32 positions in the east. The troops transited through 21 assembly areas and reached entry points into Rwanda at Cyangugu, Bugarama, Gisenyi and Kanombe Airport, Kigali. MONUC observers were present at most of the 21 RPA assembly sites and at all exit points, where detailed certificates were prepared and signed by MONUC, as well as at entry points into Rwanda, where the numbers were again cross-checked. RPA has claimed that a total of 23,760 troops had been withdrawn. MONUC therefore asked for a formal explanation of the resulting discrepancy of 2,819.

11. MONUC has received some unconfirmed reports that RPA forces may have entered the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly around the Bukavu area, before the present withdrawal began, and that RPA may have left significant amounts of weaponry, as well as some of its personnel, with RCD-Goma. MONUC intends to verify these reports and to revisit those areas from which foreign forces have been withdrawn, in an effort to verify, together with the third-party verification mechanism, that all RPA troops in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have been repatriated. A thorough investigation may also require visiting the present locations of the withdrawn troops in the home countries.

12. As mentioned in my special report, the third-party verification mechanism has successfully begun its activities. Its terms of reference were finalized and its procedures of work further developed. The mechanism has verified the departure of the declared RPA troops at various departure and arrival points. Prior to the withdrawal of those troops, the mechanism met with expert groups from the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, in Kinshasa and Kigali respectively, to discuss the implementation of the Pretoria Agreement.

13. As the withdrawal of foreign forces proceeded, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 24 September declared all political leaders of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) persona non grata, and ordered them to leave the country within 72 hours. FDLR had claimed leadership of many of the ex-FAR/Interahamwe elements in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including those cantoned in Kamina. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo was criticized by the Government of Rwanda and RCD-Goma for not handing over the FDLR leaders to the International Tribunal for Rwanda. The Prosecutor of the Tribunal announced, however, that none of the FDLR leaders were on the list of those indicted by the Tribunal. Eight members of FDLR left the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 2 October for Brazzaville, but they were arrested there by local authorities and deported back to Kinshasa the same day. They have since been held at the port of Kinshasa by the immigration authorities, pending further negotiations between the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of the Congo.

14. In another significant development, Tharcisse Renzaho, the former préfet of Kigali, who is on the list of those indicted by the Tribunal, was arrested on 29 September in Kinshasa and transferred to Arusha.

Situation in the north-east

15. During the last three months, the overall security conditions in the north-eastern town of Bunia and the entire Ituri region have continued to deteriorate. There have been recurrent ethnic clashes since June, when the Union des patriotes congolais (UPC), a primarily Hema militia, was reinforced and resupplied. On 10 July 2002, following intense fighting between UPC and RCD-ML troops in the centre of the city, the governor and RCD-ML authorities fled to Beni, leaving Bunia in the hands of the militia. In mid-August, UPC continued its offensive and succeeded in capturing some of the district's important towns, such as Irumu, 80 km from Bunia on the road to Beni. The violence and the resulting displacement of the population have deepened the mistrust among the communities of Ituri, which is also related to the distribution of resources, as well as manipulation by both internal and external actors.

16. After the signing on 18 April of the Sun City agreement, the Government sought to restore State authority in Ituri through cooperation with RCD-K/ML. The Government dispatched officials to Bunia and Kampala, in order to define the conditions for the extension of its administration and to discuss a timetable for the withdrawal of Ugandan troops. The reactions of the local factions varied, UPC, in particular, expressing its strong opposition to the proposed restoration of State administration. Subsequent events in the region, including the incident in which the Government's Minister for Human Rights was taken hostage, were covered in my special report.

17. Increased violence in the Isiro region (Province Orientale) has also been sparked by the advance of RCD-N towards, and its occupation of, Faradje, Watsa and Nia Nia in territory formerly controlled by RCD-K/ML. MLC has reportedly reinforced and supported RCD-N with equipment, ammunition and personnel. The armed elements of the two organizations share the same name, Armée de libération du Congo (ALC). Their activities seem to be driven in part by a desire for territorial strength as negotiations towards an all-inclusive transitional government progress. At the same time, there are indications that the Government is providing material support to RCD-K/ML, and that RCD-N is forging links with UPC.

Situation in the Hauts Plateaux and South Kivu

18. In the Hauts Plateaux area, to the north-west of Lake Tanganyika, RPA and RCD-Goma operations continued against the Banyamulenge group of Patrick Masunzu, which broke away from RCD-Goma earlier in the year. Prior to the initiation of the RPA withdrawal, there were indications that the bulk of this fighting was being conducted by RPA. From mid-August to mid-September, RPA captured some key airstrips, in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which it alleged were being used by the Government to deliver supplies to armed groups fighting RPA.

19. In reaction to the growing popularity of Commander Masunzu, RCD-Goma "purged" some of its members suspected of siding with the Banyamulenge rebellion, in an effort to halt popular support for the movement in South Kivu. On 7 June, during a meeting in Bukavu, the President of RCD-Goma, Adolphe Onusumba, called for the formation of a "unified front" against the military operations led by Commander Masunzu. Subsequently, the reinforcement of RPA troops in the Uvira sector indicated that Rwanda might continue to feel threatened by the military

resistance of Commander Masunzu and his supporters. However, the situation in the area is now reported to have changed with the withdrawal of RPA forces. According to unconfirmed reports, troops led by Commander Masunzu have reassumed control of the Hauts Plateaux region.

Kindu

20. In July, the population in Kindu and in the adjacent village of Alunguli reported outbreaks of intense violence as a result of fighting between RCD-Goma and the Mayi-Mayi. Subsequently, RCD-Goma troops reinforced Kindu and the RCD-Goma Deputy Chief of Staff assumed control over the movement's operations in the area. RCD-Goma subsequently launched an offensive from Kindu to drive Mayi-Mayi elements out of the region. Well-organized and equipped Mayi-Mayi launched limited but effective counter-attacks. Reports were received of indiscriminate killing of civilians in the course of the fighting, including at Kitongi where some 80 people, mostly women and children, were reportedly burned alive.

21. In the wake of the RPA withdrawal from Kindu and Kalima, violence erupted on 19 September in Kindu town with a firefight between RCD-Goma and the Mayi-Mayi. While the violence subsided that same day with the mediation of MONUC, two Mayi-Mayi activists took refuge on MONUC premises in Kindu for a number of days. RCD-Goma, which made several public statements against MONUC, including specific threats by its President against United Nations personnel, remains in control of Kindu. On 21 September, RCD-Goma troops reportedly engaged in a number of targeted killings of suspected Mayi-Mayi supporters in the area. While the situation remains tense in Kindu, relations between MONUC and RCD-Goma have somewhat improved.

III. Activities of the Mission and the United Nations in support of the peace process

Military

22. During the reporting period, MONUC continued to monitor and verify the new defensive positions of the parties, in accordance with its phase II mandate. It also continued to prepare for phase III activities. MONUC currently has some 90 military observer teams located at 50 sites; 25 of these teams are mobile and available for deployment on a range of monitoring and verifying activities. In addition, 3,590 armed troops are protecting MONUC sector headquarters, logistic bases and coordination centres in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. MONUC therefore has a total of 4,258 military personnel, against a mandated ceiling of 5,537 (see annex).

23. The situation along the disengagement line remains generally stable. While a few positions continue to be occupied in contravention of the disengagement and redeployment plan, the Sun City agreement has had a positive effect on the status of the MLC/RCD-Goma and FAC separation line. The only major violation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement during the reporting period occurred in Pweto in June. The village, occupied by RCD-Goma authorities in violation of the Lusaka Agreement, was taken over by a group of Mayi-Mayi. A subsequent meeting of the Joint Military Commission in Kinshasa concluded with a joint communiqué

indicating that the location should be handed over to the Government. However, on 29 June, RCD-Goma recaptured Pweto and remains there now.

24. In Kisangani, following an incident in June when the local RCD-Goma Brigade Commander assaulted MONUC military guards at the Onatra port facility, MONUC has worked actively with local authorities to reduce tension and has stepped up patrols by its military observers. On 8 October, however, MONUC personnel, caught in a demonstration against RCD-Goma, were slightly injured and their vehicles burned. MONUC troops assisting at the scene were compelled to shoot in the air to disperse demonstrators surrounding them. The demonstration was apparently triggered by an alleged robbery attempt and assault by RCD-Goma elements on a university professor.

25. As planning for phase III develops, MONUC is identifying and progressively establishing additional observation sites in the east, in order to create the conditions for future disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration operations and to monitor and verify the withdrawal of foreign forces from the country (as noted in para. 11). To this end, and subject to security conditions, MONUC plans to deploy military observer teams to Punia, Kalima, Shabunda, Walikale, Baraka, Bunyakiri, Kamituga and Lubutu in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. At the same time, teams will be deployed to Lubumbashi and Kamina in Government-controlled territory, to verify reports of ex-FAR/Interahamwe presence in those areas and to monitor the airfields allegedly used to resupply armed groups in the east.

26. In the meantime United Nations riverine operations continued, allowing MONUC to escort resupply and humanitarian relief barges. Consequently, the first commercial barge convoy in four years, accompanied by MONUC vessels, was dispatched from Kinshasa to Lisala and Bumba on 20 July (see paras. 36 and 37).

Disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration

27. With the conclusion of the Pretoria Agreement on 30 July, the ongoing withdrawal of foreign forces and the easing of political obstacles to the process of disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration, MONUC is refining its comprehensive strategy for this process, in cooperation with the United Nations agencies and international actors involved.

28. This ongoing activity has been given further impetus by the increasing willingness of the Government to address the political obstacles underlying successful disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration, as well as reports by MONUC that several small to medium-sized groups of ex-FAR/Interahamwe may be considering participating in the process. MONUC intends to continue to implement ad hoc disarmament, demobilization and repatriation operations, pending deployment of the two task forces to be based in Kindu and Kisangani, as recommended in the special report (S/2002/1005). In this connection, the French Ambassador in Kinshasa has recently announced his Government's intention to make available 1 million euros for disarmament, demobilization and repatriation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for both Congolese and foreign armed groups.

29. Since my eleventh report, MONUC has established a disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration presence in Goma,

Bukavu and Butembo. Plans are under way for a similar presence in Kamina, Lubumbashi and possibly Shabunda to implement the process in an ad hoc way in those areas. Despite existing security constraints and the difficulties in accessing the armed groups, MONUC will continue to explore the possibility of opening additional offices and sites for reception centres in the east of the country.

30. On 30 September, a first group of 69 Rwandan ex-combatants and 10 civilians left Kamina, where they had been cantoned by the Government, on an exploratory visit to Rwanda. MONUC had earlier succeeded in completing an initial screening of 1,981 combatants at Kamina in December 2001, but could not complete their demobilization because of their refusal to provide the necessary information concerning personal identification and military background. The exploratory visit has clearly been facilitated by the signature of the Pretoria Agreement and the banning of FDLR, which was opposed to attempts to repatriate the ex-combatants. The group, which was accompanied by MONUC personnel and by South African representatives of the Third Party Verification Mechanism, was flown to Rwanda on MONUC aircraft and spent some 10 days in Kigali and their home communes. MONUC is following up on this exploratory visit with a view to repatriating all the ex-combatants at Kamina.

31. In July, a MONUC disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration team in Beni demobilized Rwandan combatants among a small group of 46 persons, which included dependants and Congolese citizens, who had already been disarmed by the local RCD-K/ML authorities. Although the combatants agreed to be demobilized, they were reluctant to be repatriated. Accordingly, at the invitation of MONUC, the Government of Rwanda sent a team to persuade the ex-combatants to return home. Only eight have returned, however, although other members of the group now appear willing to consider repatriation.

32. In July, MONUC held consultations with the Government of Uganda and the Ugandan Amnesty Commission, concerning a process of disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration for 300 to 400 Allied Democratic Front (ADF) combatants present in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Provided that the security situation around Bunia does not deteriorate, this operation is expected to commence soon. It is to be conducted under the overall supervision of the Ugandan Amnesty Commission and MONUC, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration and a Ugandan non-governmental organization, with the support of UNICEF and WFP. The Donor Technical Group on Uganda, which consists of prominent international donors, has agreed to finance the operation, in which the role of MONUC will be limited to disarming and demobilizing the ADF combatants in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

33. In the meantime, MONUC has undertaken efforts to further mainstream disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration within the Mission by intensifying internal consultation in the planning of future such operations during phase III. Such planning takes into account the recent political developments, such as the Pretoria Agreement, lessons learned from previous exercises of this kind conducted by other peacekeeping operations, and the Mission's experience in Kamina and Beni. As indicated in my special report, MONUC has established a Joint Coordination Committee for disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration and has continued its consultations with United Nations agencies, the World Bank and the diplomatic

community, in order to refine the division of labour in respect of these operations and to transform the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration concept into a joint operational plan.

34. In this context, the cooperation of MONUC with the World Bank is crucial. The World Bank has initiated activities under the Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Programme for the Greater Great Lakes Region, which is designed to support the consolidation of peace in the region. The Programme was established to provide financial and technical assistance to national programmes, regional initiatives and special projects within the framework defined by the greater Great Lakes regional strategy for demobilization and reintegration endorsed by nine countries involved in, or affected by, conflicts in the region, as well as 30 partners from regional organizations, donor countries, international financial institutions and relevant United Nations agencies. Through the Multi-Country Programme, the World Bank and partners will be working closely with national Governments, as they are doing now with the Government of Rwanda, in preparation for reintegration programmes for returning ex-combatants from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. MONUC is collaborating closely with the World Bank to ensure that the process beginning with disarmament and demobilization of ex-combatants in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for which MONUC will be responsible under the proposed assessed budget arrangements, continues seamlessly towards reintegration of the same groups in Rwanda, where the Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Programme, funded by the Multi-Country Programme, would assist former combatants in their transition to civilian life. Most recently, MONUC participated in a seminar conducted by the Bank in Nairobi from 17 to 21 September 2002 to facilitate dialogue between the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda with regard to the technical aspects of the implementation of the Pretoria Agreement. The seminar identified in some detail the main activities to be performed during the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration operations, indicating where the responsibility for performing them lay.

35. MONUC is mandated only to disarm, demobilize and repatriate the foreign armed groups listed in the Lusaka Agreement. However, circumstances might arise when Congolese groups or individuals might present themselves at a MONUC reception centre, to surrender their weapons in the hope of becoming eligible for some sort of national Congolese demobilization and reinsertion programme. Bearing in mind the responsibility it might be considered to have incurred in agreeing to disarm men in such circumstances, MONUC has also been consulting with specialized agencies and donors about steps it could take, within its mandate and resources, to facilitate their subsequent demobilization and reinsertion. A working arrangement on the ground with the participation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, MONUC and UNDP is being considered, for example, to assist with the disarmament, demobilization and reinsertion of Congolese armed groups into society.

Reopening of the Congo River

36. There were hopes that significant progress could be achieved towards the reopening of the Congo River after the signature in May of an agreement between the three main parties under the auspices of MONUC. On 20 July, 12 barges set off from Kinshasa to Lisala and Bumba (northern Equateur) in the first attempt to

resume commercial exchanges in nearly four years. A further commercial convoy of four barges left Kinshasa on 8 October. This will be joined en route by at least four additional barges.

37. In Kisangani, the RCD-Goma authorities continue to insist on convening a tripartite committee meeting to discuss "technical issues" with the Government and MLC before lifting all restrictions on river traffic. This demand reflects a disagreement between RCD-Goma and the business community in Kisangani over taxes. MONUC is actively trying to bring the concerned parties together to settle their differences. In the meantime, the slow progress towards an agreement between the three main parties continues to pose a serious threat to the restoration of the freedom of movement of people and goods on the river.

Civilian police

38. MONUC is preparing a detailed plan in regard to possible expansion of civilian police activities to meet the rapidly changing circumstances on the ground, especially in the light of the Pretoria and Luanda agreements. There are currently 52 United Nations civilian police officers deployed in Kinshasa, Kisangani and Goma. In accordance with Security Council resolution 1376 (2001), the civilian police component is in the process of implementing a pilot project for training the local police in Kisangani. The programme includes a refresher course for already existing police units, and specialized training for traffic and court police, as well as for criminal investigators. The latter comprises training for police cadets, and an advanced training course for police inspectors. As part of the programme, MONUC will proceed, as soon as possible, and in cooperation with bilateral donors, with the refurbishment of the police training centre in Kapalata, as well as the procurement of basic materials such as uniforms, vehicles and communication equipment, through the special trust fund established by the Mission for this purpose.

39. The first session of the short-term "train-the-trainers" course in Kisangani was concluded on 31 August and a second session was completed on 15 October. A refresher course for judicial police is to begin on 21 October.

Public information

40. Public information deployment and activities have reinforced the visibility of MONUC in all sectors of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Radio Okani broadcasts news programmes in five languages from Kinshasa to eight locations: Kisangani, Goma, Kalemie, Kananga, Mbandaka, Gbadolite, Kindu and, as from 6 October, Bukavu. These eight regional FM stations have also commenced locally produced programming. Three short wave transmitters have been installed in Kinshasa and will be fully operational by the end of October, covering the entire country and the region. Radio Okapi has started an information campaign on disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration with specific programmes in French, Swahili and Kinyarwanda targeting both the armed groups and the Congolese population. United Nations agencies have also increased their contributions to Radio Okapi programming.

41. During the reporting period the publication information component of MONUC has produced 60,000 posters and 50,000 bumper stickers in five languages; these are being disseminated throughout the sectors, by public information staff, military observers, non-governmental organizations and other cooperating partners.

In addition, it produces and widely disseminates 5,000 copies of a monthly magazine in French to increase the public's understanding of the Mission's mandate and of new developments in the peace process. This component also issues a daily press review, which covers international media and press clippings, a weekly newsletter and a bi-weekly bulletin.

42. At the same time the photography unit of the Mission has created an archiving system and makes regular contributions to MONUC publications, media requests, and the MONUC web site, www.monuc.org. The video unit has been reinforced and has produced an informational video on the Mission. It also produced a video on the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration operation in Beni and disseminated it to the sectors. Full video coverage of the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration operation in Kamina-Kigali was also produced and presented to the ex-combatants in the Kamina camp on 10 October before dissemination to all sectors, as part of the information campaign on that process.

43. MONUC is also disseminating information to areas where armed groups are located. Radio Okapi and MONUC publications are increasingly being used to encourage combatants to disarm and repatriate. Three portable mobile radio facilities with FM transmission, to be used for this purpose, were recently procured and should be installed soon.

44. There were several incidents in which local authorities harassed and intimidated Radio Okapi journalists. On 27 August, in Kindu, RCD-Goma military officers arrested and physically assaulted a Radio Okapi journalist. On 13 September, in Gbadolite, another Radio Okapi journalist was detained for eight days by MLC authorities for reporting on the condition of child combatants in the MLC forces.

Human rights

45. MONUC continues to receive regular information indicating that the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo remains precarious. In recent months, in areas controlled by the Government, there have been several cases of prolonged detention of human rights defenders, a wave of arrests of journalists and the heavy sentencing of some for *imputations dommageables*, the arrest and detention of relatives and supporters of the leaders of an opposition political party, the Union pour la démocratie et le progrès social (UDPS), and cases of prolonged detention without trial on the order of the Military Prosecutor General.

46. Information received by MONUC includes allegations of arbitrary killings and rapes and excessive use of force by the security forces of all the parties. The situation is particularly worrying in the east. MONUC is especially concerned about consistent reports of violence against women by security and armed groups. On 20 June, the international non-governmental organization Human Rights Watch issued a report documenting the systematic use of rape and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls by armed groups operating in the east. The victims do not always report these incidents, primarily for fear of rejection by their communities and of reprisals. Consequently, there is no appropriate treatment immediately available to these women and girls. MONUC is following up on this report with a view to increasing the protection of women and girls against rape and other violations of human rights.

47. Widespread and grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law continue to be perpetrated by the armed opposition following several armed conflicts between RCD-Goma/RPA on the one hand, and the Mayi-Mayi and uncontrolled, foreign armed groups on the other, especially in South Kivu and Maniema Provinces.

48. MONUC continues to gather information and report on the conditions of detainees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where another aspect of the human rights situation is the deplorable state of prisons and other detention centres. Throughout the country, people continue to be detained without due process. Detainees are treated in a degrading and inhumane manner. Detainees who are beneficiaries of presidential amnesties remain imprisoned.

49. The past three months in Kindu have been marked by human rights violations that have far surpassed the predicted worst-case scenarios. The crisis erupted in August, shortly after RCD reinforced its eighth Brigade with a new commander and chief of staff, both of whom were allegedly involved in the massacres of 14 May in Kisangani. In retaliation for a failed offensive against the Mayi-Mayi, the RCD-Goma soldiers summarily executed 46 civilians, including a 15-year-old boy, and seven members of the same family. In Kindu itself the President of RCD-Goma, in a radio broadcast, accused MONUC of complicity with the Mayi-Mayi. This speech was followed by an outbreak of violence against suspected Mayi-Mayi sympathizers, which reportedly resulted in the killing of 25 people. Most recent reports involve the public execution, on 22 September, of three RCD-Goma soldiers who robbed a trader and, on 6 October, the summary execution by RCD-Goma of six fishermen suspected of being Mayi-Mayi. The number and scale of gross human rights violations is growing rapidly and the situation demands greater protection of civilians under imminent threat of physical violence.

Report of the Commission on Human Rights on Kisangani

50. At the request of the Security Council, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in cooperation with MONUC undertook an investigation of the events of mid-May in Kisangani, covered in the eleventh report on MONUC (S/2002/621). From 16 to 22 June, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions of the Commission on Human Rights, Asma Jahangir, conducted a fact-finding mission to Kinshasa, Goma and Kisangani. On 16 July, the then High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, submitted a report on the Special Rapporteur's findings and recommendations on the Kisangani situation to the Security Council. The Security Council condemned the actions of RCD-Goma in Kisangani and demanded that the rebel movement bring the perpetrators of the killings to justice.

Child protection

51. The reporting period was marked by a disturbing upsurge in the recruitment of child soldiers. MONUC verified the existence of a training camp run by RPA in the area of Luvungui north of Uvira. Of the estimated 500 Mayi-Mayi in training at that location, between 50 and 100 were children under the age of 18.

52. The majority of the victims in the ongoing Hema-Lendu conflict in the area of Bunia are women and children. Among the hundreds of injured women and children admitted to hospitals in Bunia, 80 per cent suffer from wounds to the head, hands

and extremities. The perpetrators used knives, cudgels, machetes and other sharp implements as their weapons.

53. The fighting between UPC and RCD-K/ML forces in the north-east has led to a significant rise in the number of child soldiers being recruited by the forces in that area. In Bunia, the forces of Commander Thomas Lubanga have recruited large numbers of child soldiers.

54. Although UNICEF, MONUC and non-governmental organizations continue to plan for and advocate child demobilization in rebel-held areas, rebel parties have not yet agreed to give the international community access to military sites. Discussions on the establishment of child demobilization subcommissions have not yet borne fruit. It is hoped that the latest UNICEF/RCD-Goma efforts will result in the establishment of a subcommission in Kisangani in the near future.

55. Plans for the demobilization of child soldiers in the context of overall disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration are well under way. This is being done in conjunction with other relevant partners, most notably UNICEF. With the Government of Norway's financial contribution to support the peace process, the Child Protection Section has finalized a plan to augment the capacity of local non-governmental organizations to receive and aid possible child ex-combatants completing the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration exercise in the Beni-Butembo area. Child protection advisers work together with UNICEF, which is providing similar emergency expansion capacity to local child protection non-governmental organizations in Bukavu in anticipation of needs related to disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration in the area.

Gender issues

56. Raising the gender awareness of MONUC personnel, agency partners and the population has been the focus of the work of the gender section. The medium- to long-term objective is to ensure the integration of a gender perspective into all aspects of the Mission's work.

57. On 23 July, the gender section convened a strategic planning meeting with the Mission's military and civilian staff to create an action plan for integrating the concept of gender into all MONUC activities. The next step will be to form Mission-wide gender working groups to assess the gender dimensions of the Mission's work and ensure that gender concerns are accounted for in all of its activities. Sessions on gender sensitivity also continue to be a regular part of the induction programmes offered to all incoming military, civilian and civilian police staff. This is in addition to the gender awareness training of trainers for the local police in Kisangani.

58. Meetings with Congolese civil society organizations, media, and church organizations across the country to discuss their views on the peace process are still being held. The major outcome of such work is to harmonize the vision of women's groups from the east and the west so that they can work out strategies to ensure their full participation in the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration adopted prior to the inter-Congolese dialogue. A plan of action to address the reports of violence against women in the east was also discussed by various stakeholders.

Humanitarian activities

59. Humanitarian conditions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo remain deeply disturbing. Civilians continue to bear the brunt of the crisis. Approximately 17 million people — almost a third of the country's population of approximately 53 million — are in need of urgent food aid, while approximately 2.2 million people are displaced within the country. During the reporting period, significant new displacement was reported in Ituri and Maniema Provinces. Women, children and the elderly are the most affected by the conflict.

60. A humanitarian assessment team comprising the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator and representatives of MONUC travelled to Minembwe-Itombwe on 2 August, under the protection of RPA. The team was, however, denied access to other areas further west in the Hauts Plateaux, where there had been fighting between RCD-Goma/RPA and Commander Masunzu's forces 48 hours before the mission. On 3 August, the team travelled to Fizi-Baraka, but a hostile crowd of civilians and soldiers prevented them from leaving the airport. The mission was successfully completed on 8 August, however. The Humanitarian Coordinator described the situation in the border region of Uvira, the Hauts Plateaux and Fizi-Baraka as a "creeping disaster", with over 100 villages deserted and 20,000 newly displaced families, bringing the total number of internally displaced people in South Kivu to an estimated 400,000. In the context of continuous military offensives against Masunzu's stronghold, humanitarian assistance in the area remains limited to ad hoc interventions conducted by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

61. Humanitarian affairs officers have witnessed an increase in recent months in the harassment of relief workers and the looting of their assets. Humanitarian staff in Bunia and Dungu experienced threats of physical violence and looting, which in Bunia resulted in the loss of nearly 14 tons of food destined for vulnerable populations. Several humanitarian teams were evacuated, most notably from Shabunda and Nyankunde. In many areas where there is widespread insecurity, health conditions are reported to have deteriorated alarmingly, and there is evidence of very high malnutrition rates among the populations. Access to war-affected areas remains critical for humanitarian partners.

62. The deteriorating humanitarian situation against the backdrop of planned disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration activities requires a reinvigorated humanitarian effort that expands coverage to more locations. Following consultations with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other United Nations and non-governmental partners, MONUC will shortly extend its humanitarian presence beyond its current locations in Kinshasa, Mbandaka, Bukavu, Kisangani, Gbadolite, Kalemie and Goma to under-served locations with significant humanitarian needs.

63. MONUC logistical capabilities have been a great asset to the humanitarian community's relief efforts in the country. From June to September, MONUC transported more than 95 tons of humanitarian cargo. MONUC also supported the 2002 National Polio Vaccination Campaign during those months; the campaign achieved 85 to 90 per cent coverage.

Mine action

64. While less of a hazard than in other mission areas, mines and unexploded ordnance are still present in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Most mines were planted in 1999 and 2000. In particular, the areas of Kisangani and Ikela are heavily mined. Reportedly, FAC, RCD, UPDF and RPA frequently used mines in the Mbuji-Mayi, Kabinda, Kabalo, Pweto, Beni, Buta and Tshopo areas. As a consequence of the conflict in Burundi, landmines were planted in Kivu in the Uvira region, close to the Burundi border. It is believed that Uvira, Baraka, Makobolo and the Ruzizi Valley are mined. Reportedly, UPC has also used mines in the recent fighting around Bunia.

65. MONUC works in close collaboration with the Mine Action Coordination Centre, with offices in Kinshasa and Kisangani. MONUC and the Centre share a database on mines and unexploded ordnance and have well-defined standard operational procedures. Mine-clearing activities conducted in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are limited to the work of a Belgian non-governmental organization which works closely with the Mine Action Coordination Centre, local partners and MONUC military engineers. Demining activities in support of MONUC operations in Kindu are currently under contract negotiation, while the contract in Kisangani has been finalized.

Quick-impact projects

66. In enhancing its effectiveness, MONUC is endeavouring to engage actively with the local population as a means of winning the support necessary to carry out its mandate. The Mission has made extensive use of quick-impact projects, with a view to making a demonstrable, positive difference in the lives of the people where MONUC is deployed and to enhance its credibility with the local population. MONUC has focused on high visibility projects in the areas of restoration or enhancement of water services and water purification; provision of public sanitation; provision of basic medical equipment and medical supplies; repairs to school buildings and provision of basic school furniture/materiel; repairs to hospitals/medical facilities; and repairs to basic community infrastructure.

67. The Mission's phase III activities, outlined in the special report, will imply deployment into new areas in the east, most of which have suffered from years of conflict. It will be essential for the success of the phase III activities to continue reaching out to the local population to ensure their acceptance of the Mission, and therefore to extend funding for quick-impact projects during phase III.

Review and assessment mission

68. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations sent a review and assessment mission to MONUC from 28 July to 8 August, led by former Assistant Secretary-General Manfred Eisele. The aim of the mission was to review the present capability of MONUC to implement its mandate and to meet future challenges, especially in the face of major changes in the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The review team, which travelled all over the Mission area, examined various aspects of the MONUC operations and also met with members of the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda as well as the diplomatic community in Kinshasa and Kigali.

69. The review mission found MONUC staff members to be active and committed to fulfilling the Mission's mandate. They were extremely frank with the review mission in expressing their views on how MONUC could improve its activities as it geared up for phase III activities. The mission found that the main areas in need of enhancement include the setting of overall strategic direction and communication of such direction throughout the Mission and beyond; strengthening management of the Mission through the appointment of a second deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for operations and management, strengthening a number of key posts and ensuring that the Mission is properly staffed; reviewing the delegation of authority and ensuring appropriate command and control arrangements throughout the Mission; enhancing information flows and policy and analysis functions, as well as coordination of activities throughout all components of the Mission; and ensuring that the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration programme is "mainstreamed" through the Mission and is provided with the full support of all components.

70. The report of the assessment mission was presented to me on 1 October, and the members of the Security Council and troop-contributing countries were briefed on the main elements. Subsequent to my approval of the review mission's wide-ranging recommendations, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has initiated an action plan so that MONUC can more effectively implement its mandate. In due course, the Department will conduct a review of the implementation of these important recommendations.

IV. Logistical activities

71. As MONUC continues its eastward deployment and intensifies the preparations for the launching of a full-scale disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration operation, the daunting logistical support tasks that lie ahead become ever more apparent. Arrangements for the deployment of the two task forces and setting up of temporary reception centres would involve a carefully planned and coordinated engineering effort, requiring an integrated civilian and military approach to optimize the use of the limited engineering resources available in MONUC.

72. Since many of the reception centres may be located in remote and scattered locations with poor or no road access, additional air assets will be required to deploy personnel and equipment to establish, operate and dismantle the centres and associated accommodation camps for ex-combatants and possibly their dependants. Consideration will also have to be given to modalities and funding arrangements for the transportation of the combatants and their families (estimated at around 90,000 persons) from the reception centres to their final destinations. Additional technical expertise for the upkeep of airfields associated with centres and camps and to support air operations in general will also need to be considered. The capacities of the logistic bases in Kinshasa and Kisangani will be increased and a new logistic base at Kigoma, United Republic of Tanzania, is being considered to optimize the delivery of equipment and stores.

73. Since logistics operations involving the mobile disarmament and demobilization sites will be complex, the two task forces will have to be self-sustained, and it is expected that all major contingent-owned equipment will be

provided under "wet lease" arrangements. The task forces will also need to have sufficient integral engineering and aviation assets to support MONUC operations in the specific areas of the establishment of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration reception centres and associated camps, water purification, maintenance of runways/landing grounds and local access road networks, airfield support services and operational demining tasks.

V. Financial aspects

74. The General Assembly, by its resolution 56/252 C of 27 June 2002, appropriated an amount of $581.9 million for MONUC for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003.

75. Since its establishment in October 1999, the Trust Fund to support the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has received voluntary contributions amounting to $1.1 million, with expenditures authorized to date in the full amount.

76. As at 31 August 2002, unpaid assessed contributions to the MONUC special account amounted to $322.9 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to $1,781.1 million.

VI. Observations

77. Since my last progress report to the Security Council, there have been significant developments in the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The signing of the Pretoria and Luanda agreements, the consequent withdrawals of foreign forces from the country, the arrest of three persons indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Luanda, Brazzaville and Kinshasa, the banning of the FDLR leadership based in Kinshasa, the successful exploratory visit to Rwanda of a group of ex-combatants and their dependants from Kamina, and the increased contacts between the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda and Uganda are all major steps which can have lasting, positive implications for the political and military situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The parties should be congratulated for the political will they have demonstrated in moving the peace process forward.

78. Nevertheless, there continue to be serious challenges. Heavy fighting continues in the north-eastern and eastern parts of the country. The fragile peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and recent gains made in the implementation of the Pretoria Agreement are in serious danger of being reversed because of the most recent military offensive undertaken against Uvira and other key locations in the east. I urge all parties to put an end to all hostilities and take advantage of the positive atmosphere and opportunities created by recent developments in the country, and especially welcome the role of the Government of South Africa in its persistent effort to keep the peace process on track.

79. The situation in the Ituri region remains worrying. My previous progress reports described the continuing violence and abuses in that area, which have worsened recently. All parties concerned should now work together to promote confidence. I commend the establishment in the Ituri region of the Joint Pacification

Commission, under the terms of the Luanda Agreement, and hope that it will serve to restore peace and stability in this troubled region of the country.

80. Equally, the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a source of grave concern. The current culture of impunity that exists in many parts of the country must end, and those responsible for serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law must be held accountable. The recent arrests of individuals indicted by the Tribunal and their transfer to Arusha is encouraging in this regard.

81. I strongly condemn the threats and harassment against MONUC staff, including those working for Radio Okapi. The instigators of the latest incidents in Kisangani and elsewhere in the Democratic Republic of the Congo bear responsibility for such acts and must understand that, in order for peace and normalcy to return to the country, the safety and security of United Nations personnel must be guaranteed. There must also be a free flow of information; the role of Radio Okapi is fundamental in this process.

82. As the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo moves forward, the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration of foreign armed groups will become a central part of MONUC operations. The Mission has been active in promoting the early implementation of this crucial programme. I am gratified by the close collaboration between MONUC and the different international partners, including the United Nations agencies and programmes, the World Bank, and other members of the donor community; the United Nations is determined to strengthen this vital coordination.

83. The progress achieved so far in the inter-Congolese dialogue is encouraging. The increasing willingness of the various political actors to engage and address their counterparts is a welcome sign. In this regard, I urge all parties to be guided by the interests of the Congolese people. I believe it is essential to look beyond the distribution of posts in the transitional administration leading towards a new political dispensation, and to begin addressing issues such as security sector reform and the extension of State authority throughout the country. Above all, the Congolese leadership must focus on the creation of a reformed and revitalized State that can meet the aspirations of its people. We must not allow the present opportunity to be lost.

84. I also call on all parties to cooperate in the mediation efforts of my Special Envoy, Moustapha Niasse, and the Government of South Africa, with a view to reaching an early understanding on the transitional arrangements foreseen under the Lusaka Agreement.

85. The United Nations will continue to do its utmost and work with the Congolese parties and people to achieve these aims. To do so, the full support of the international community is needed. In my special report, I have already referred to the need to give strong impetus to the peace process. I once again encourage the Security Council to take the necessary decisions in this regard.

86. Finally, I wish to express my appreciation to my Special Representative, Amos Namanga Ngongi, to the Force Commander, Major General Mountaga Diallo, and to all the men and women of MONUC, military and civilian, for their untiring efforts under the very challenging circumstances still prevailing in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

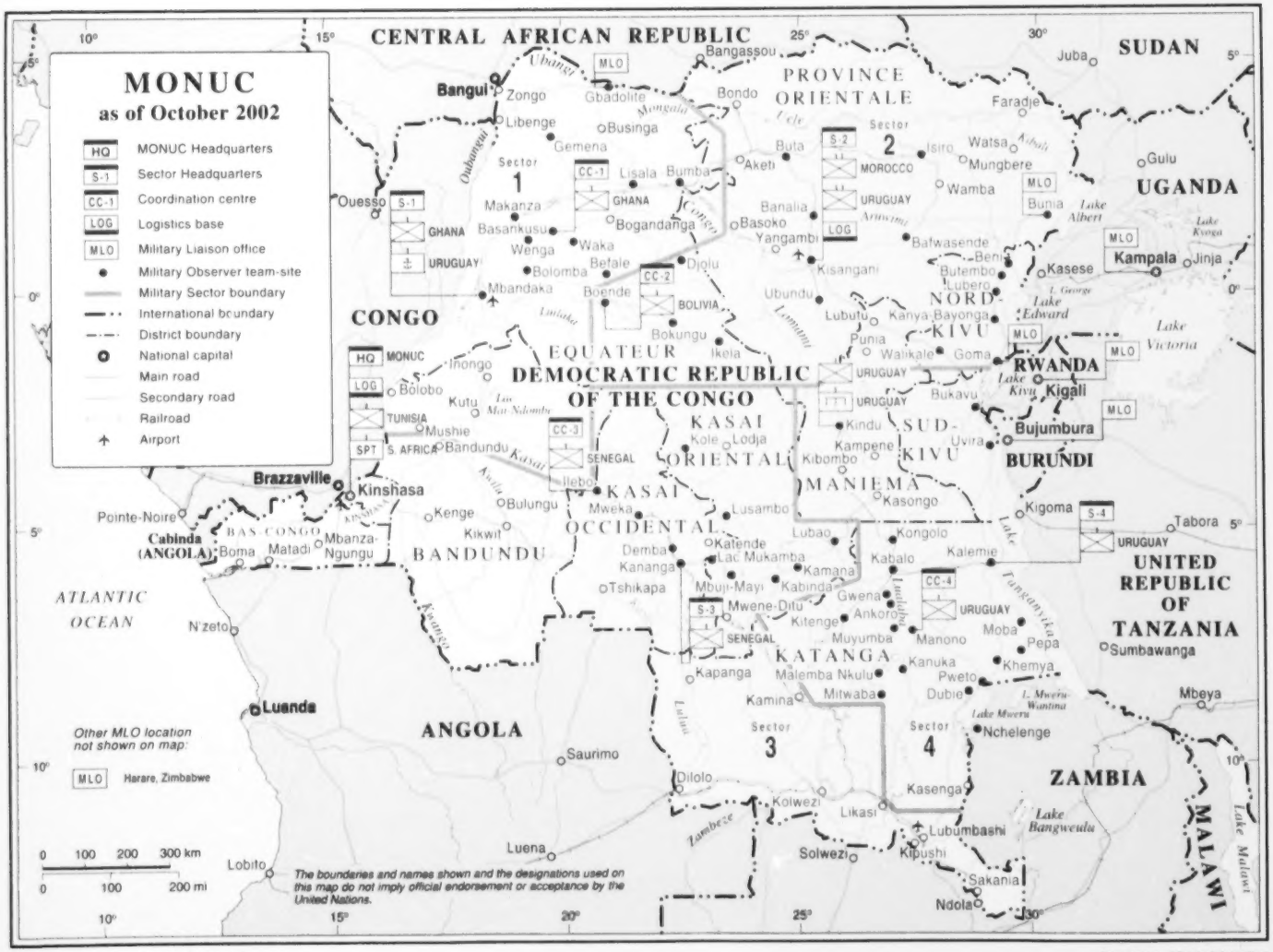
Annex

United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: military and civilian police strength

(as at 10 October 2002)

	Military observers	*Staff officers*	*Military troops*	*Total military component*	*Civilian police officers*
Algeria	11	1		12	
Argentina					6
Bangladesh	12	10		22	
Benin	19	3		22	6
Belgium		5		5	
Bolivia	3	2	202	207	
Burkina Faso	12			12	2
Cameroon		1		1	
Canada		8		86	
China	9	1		10	
Côte d'Ivoire					4
Czech Republic	4	1		5	
Denmark		2		2	
Egypt	22	4		26	1
France	1	2	3	6	
Ghana	18	2	403	423	
Guinea					1
India	20	11		31	
Indonesia	7	4		11	
Ireland	2			2	
Italy		3		3	
Jordan	17	7		24	
Kenya	15	12		27	
Malawi	17			17	
Malaysia	7	18		25	
Mali	21	3		24	2
Mongolia	2			2	
Morocco		5	653	658	
Mozambique	2			2	
Nepal	16	2		18	2
Niger	15	2		17	5
Nigeria	24	2		26	
Norway	3	2		5	

	Military observers	*Staff officers*	*Military troops*	*Total military component*	*Civilian police officers*
Pakistan	22	18		40	
Paraguay	19	2		21	
Peru	3			3	
Poland	3			3	
Portugal					4
Romania	25	1		26	1
Russian Federation	28	2		30	
Senegal	8	18	459	485	9
South Africa	1	10	140	151	
Spain		1		1	
Sri Lanka	2			2	
Sweden	2			2	3
Switzerland		2		2	
Turkey					3
Tunisia	19	6	255	280	
Ukraine	9	2		11	3
United Kingdom		6		6	
Uruguay	25	24	1 479	1 528	
Zambia	10	4		14	
Total	**455**	**209**	**3 594**	**4 258**	**52**



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Security Council

Distr.: General
22 October 2002
English
Original: French

Letter dated 22 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/161 of 12 December 2000, I have the honour to request you to authorize Ambassador Nelson Cosme, Assistant Secretary-General of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) to participate, by virtue of article 39, in the public meeting of the Security Council to be held on Tuesday, 22 October 2002, at 10 a.m. on the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations system and Central Africa in the maintenance of peace and security.

(*Signed*) Martin **Belinga-Eboutou**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

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Security Council

Distr.: General
22 October 2002
English
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Letter dated 22 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform the Security Council regarding the situation prevailing in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, especially in the town of Uvira.

My Government would like to inform the Security Council of the wave of killings perpetrated by the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie/Goma (RCD/Goma) and troops of the Rwandan Patriotic Army (APR) on Saturday, 19 October 2002. This massacre of innocent people began precisely at 1 p.m. after the Mai-Mai combatants had already evacuated the town at the request of the Government and the international community.

A provisional count of these killings for Saturday, 19 October, alone, indicates that more than 100 Congolese were executed in cold blood. According to local sources, as confirmed by neighbouring radio stations, the combined troops of APR and RCD/Goma were under the command of Adolphe Onosumba and Major Amisi Tango Four at Uvira, and of Azarias Ruberwa at their provisional headquarters set up at Bukavu.

Furthermore, the fighting triggered a major humanitarian crisis, characterized by a massive displacement of almost the entire population of Uvira, who are now living without any assistance whatsoever in very unhealthy and unhygienic conditions.

My Government considers that the United Nations should be able to set up a commission of enquiry in order to shed light on this massacre of the civilian population of Uvira by APR and RCD/Goma on 19 October 2002. The dispatch of such a commission is especially urgent since all reports indicate that acts of violence and other atrocities continue to be committed against the population of Uvira and the surrounding area.

My Government also hopes that the United Nations, through the Security Council, will insist that Rwanda withdraw all its troops, including those whom it might try to conceal among the ranks of RCD/Goma, as well as those remaining in certain areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

My Government earnestly requests the Security Council to condemn the redeployment by Rwanda of its troops in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo during the period 16-20 October 2002 from the airports of Kamembe and

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Kanombe (Kigali) and from the areas around Ruzizi II, Bugarama (Rwanda) and Cibitoke (Burundi). To that end there is a need for scrupulous verification of all RCD/Goma units in order to identify, on the basis of where they came from or where they are located, those who belong to APR.

My Government, wishing to complete the process of disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and rehabilitation, requests the Security Council, in close collaboration with the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and the third party, to require the latter to proceed to establish assembly points and put them into operation for the assemblage of former members of the Rwandan Armed Forces (ex-FAR) and Interahamwe, including action to ensure the security of the assembly points in accordance with the procedures followed by MONUC and the Joint Military Commission. For that purpose, it is important to establish assembly centres for Rwandan ex-combatants in order to encourage their voluntary disarmament at the very time when the process of disarmament, demilitarization, repatriation, resettlement and rehabilitation has reached a very advanced stage of implementation in the part controlled by the Government, which includes a start on the repatriation of Rwandan ex-combatants from Kamina.

My Government also stresses the need to finalize the third phase of MONUC, including its urgent deployment to the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Lastly, my Government earnestly calls on the Security Council and the United Nations system as a whole to provide emergency humanitarian aid in order to assist all the people in that part of the Republic who have been displaced or wounded.

My Government encloses two documents in the annex to this letter. The first is a government communiqué taking note of the decision of the Mai-Mai combatants to withdraw from Uvira on Friday, 18 October 2002. The second contains a preliminary estimate of the forces of APR who have not been included in the "complete withdrawal" of Rwandan troops from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

My Government requests you to have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 22 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

A. Government communiqué

Members of the press,

Fellow countrymen,

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has followed closely the decision of the Mai-Mai to withdraw from the town of Uvira in order not to hinder the peace process and to spare the stricken people of the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo further massacres and killings that would add to the number of innocent victims of the war imposed on our country.

The Government fully appreciates this patriotic gesture, which is also a positive response to its repeated calls for a cessation of hostilities so that there can be a return to peace, national reconciliation and national reunification, most recently the appeal made in its 14 October 2002 communiqué on the crisis situation prevailing in Uvira since 12 October 2002.

While the Mai-Mai, at the request of the Government and the international community, withdrew from Uvira during the night of Friday, 18 October 2002, however, RCD/Goma and the troops of the Rwandan Patriotic Army (APR) decided to embark on a massacre of innocent people at 1 p.m. the following day. First estimates from various sources put the number of dead at some one hundred innocent Congolese civilians, executed in cold blood.

The Government unequivocally condemns these abhorrent acts and reminds RCD/Goma and its allies that the demands of peace and national reconciliation will not prevent the advent of justice.

Accordingly, the Government will today, Monday 21 October, request the Security Council of the United Nations to set up a commission of enquiry to shed light on this latest massacre of Congolese citizens.

The Government remains convinced, nevertheless, that the situation in Uvira, which has been universally deplored and condemned, is an unfortunate incident that must not jeopardize the peace process in which the Congolese people are placing all their hopes. The Government believes firmly that any form of hostility and violence among Congolese cannot be justified at the present time.

The Government supports the 18 October 2002 statement by the President of the Security Council calling for the continued withdrawal of foreign forces from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the effective implementation of the Pretoria and Luanda peace agreements concluded among the parties, the rapid deployment of MONUC to the eastern part of the country and the holding of talks among the parties in order to end the hostilities and bring about harmonious, peaceful coexistence during the transitional period.

In this context, the Government reiterates its demand for the immediate holding of a meeting of experts from the Government, RCD/Goma, the Mai-Mai, civil society, local churches and MONUC with a view to setting up a mechanism for

administering and ensuring the safety of the population in territories evacuated by APR troops.

Accordingly, further to the 18 October 2002 statement by the President of the Security Council, the Government calls on all political actors and Congolese parties to show more prudence and restraint, with a view to expediting the resumption of a political dialogue, with the aid of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Moustapha Niasse, for the early conclusion of a comprehensive, inclusive agreement.

Lastly, the Government remains open to any initiative that might accelerate the conclusion of the all-inclusive agreement so desired by the Congolese people.

Done at Kinshasa, 19 October 2002.

(*Signed*) Vital **Kamerhe**
Government Commissioner responsible for monitoring
the peace process in the Great Lakes region

B. Rwandan troops that have remained in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Units not reported at time of withdrawal

I. Northern Katanga

1. One Rwandan Patriotic Army (APR) brigade headquarters at Kalemie;
2. One APR battalion at Moba;
3. One APR multiple launch rocket system at Moba.

II. Province of Maniema

1. APR 75th battalion of the 402nd brigade at Lubutu;
2. APR 12th battalion at Punia;
3. APR armoured detachment at Kindu;
4. Two anti-aircraft batteries at Kindu.

III. Kasai Oriental Province

1. One APR battalion at Kamana;
2. One APR field artillery battalion at Lodja;
3. One APR field artillery battalion at Lusambo;
4. One APR field artillery battalion at Kimabwe;
5. Two APR anti-aircraft batteries at Kole;
6. One APR brigade headquarters at Lodja.

IV. Orientale Province

1. One APR task force battalion at Ubundu;
2. One APR detachment/Mixed battalion (with the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD)) at Banalia.

V. Nord-Kivu Province

1. APR 25th battalion at Rutshuru;
2. APR 68th battalion 10 km north-east of Kiwanja;
3. One 408th brigade headquarters at Katale;
4. One APR battalion at Rwindi;
5. One APR battalion at Vitshumbi.

VI. Sud-Kivu Province

1. 9th battalion of the APR 201st brigade at Uvira;
2. One APR battalion at Bukavu;
3. Whisky battalion at Kitutu.

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First report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1408 (2002) regarding Liberia

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 1 of resolution 1408 (2002) of 6 May 2002, the Security Council decided that the Government of Liberia had not complied fully with the demands in paragraph 2 (a) to (d) of resolution 1343 (2001).

2. In paragraph 2 (a) to (d) of resolution 1343 (2001), the Security Council demanded that Liberia take the following steps:

(a) Expel all Revolutionary United Front (RUF) members from Liberia, including such individuals as are listed by the Committee established by paragraph 14 of the resolution, and prohibit all RUF activities on its territory, provided that nothing in this paragraph shall oblige Liberia to expel its own nationals from its territory;

(b) Cease all financial and, in accordance with resolution 1171 (1998), military support to RUF, including all transfers of arms and ammunition, all military training and the provision of logistical and communications support, and take steps to ensure that no such support is provided from the territory of Liberia or by its nationals;

(c) Cease all direct or indirect import of Sierra Leone rough diamonds which are not controlled through the certificate of origin regime of the Government of Sierra Leone in accordance with resolution 1306 (2000);

(d) Freeze funds or financial resources or assets that are made available by its nationals or within its territory or indirectly for the benefit of RUF or entities owned or controlled directly or indirectly by RUF.

3. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 11 of resolution 1408 (2002), in which the Security Council requested a report by 21 October 2002, and thereafter at six-monthly intervals from that date, drawing on information from all relevant sources, including the United Nations Office in Liberia, the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), on whether Liberia has complied with the demands referred to in paragraph 1 of resolution 1408 (2002).

4. As requested in paragraph 11 of resolution 1408 (2002), the report contains information provided to the United Nations Office in Liberia by the Government of

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Liberia, information provided by UNAMSIL on links between RUF and the Government of Liberia, and also information provided by ECOWAS regarding measures taken by the Government of Liberia in compliance with paragraph 2 (a) to (d) of resolution 1343 (2001).

II. Information provided by the United Nations Office in Liberia, UNAMSIL and ECOWAS regarding Liberia's compliance with paragraph 2 of resolution 1343 (2001)

A. Information from the United Nations Office in Liberia

5. As stated in my previous reports on this subject, the United Nations Office in Liberia still lacks the appropriate capacity to provide independent confirmation of claims by the Government of Liberia regarding its compliance with the demands contained in paragraph 2 (a) to (d) of resolution 1343 (2001). However, on the basis of information provided by the Government of Liberia, the Office has reported as follows.

6. With regard to paragraphs 2 (a) and (b) of resolution 1343 (2001), the Government of Liberia reiterated its earlier submissions, contained in my second and third reports pursuant to that resolution, to the effect that its policy of disengagement with RUF, which it adopted on 12 January 2001, remained unchanged. The Liberian authorities reaffirmed the expulsion of Sam Bockarie prior to the adoption of resolution 1343 (2001), and the Liberian Minister of Information stated that Sam Bockarie is in Ghana, with the consent of the Government of Ghana.

7. The Government further noted that Sierra Leone had just successfully held free and fair elections with the full cooperation and participation of RUF, which had since transformed itself into a political party. It further pointed to the absence of any armed hostilities in Sierra Leone for most of 2001 and 2002 as sufficiently indicating that the Government of Liberia harboured no plans to destabilize Sierra Leone or any other State in the subregion.

8. The United Nations Office in Liberia has confirmed that the Government of Liberia has studiously participated in all joint security meetings held under the auspices of the Mano River Union both prior to and after the first Rabat Summit of the heads of State of the Mano River Union, held on 27 February 2002. The Government of Liberia has also regularly participated in all other preparatory meetings, held at the level of Foreign Ministers, aimed at enhancing confidence within the Mano River Union and at preparing an appropriate agenda for the second summit of the heads of State, under the Rabat process, which has been scheduled for November 2002.

9. With regard to paragraph 2 (c) of resolution 1343 (2001), the Government of Liberia reaffirmed its ban on the importation of uncertified rough diamonds and the related ban on the export of Liberian diamonds, adding that the ban was being vigorously pursued through the Ministry of Finance, as well as through customs and security personnel of the Ministry of Justice who have been stationed at every port of entry.

10. In addition to those measures, the Government of Liberia reported that the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy was currently engaged with the High Diamond Council, which has now formally drawn up a draft plan of action for Liberia's diamond certification regime, under the Kimberly Process, with a view to putting in place a certificate of origin regime for Liberia. In this regard, members of the Security Council sanctions Committee on Liberia will recall that the Minister of Lands and Mines of Liberia had, early in October 2002, been granted a waiver of the travel ban to facilitate his official visit to South Africa in pursuance of the above-mentioned objective.

11. With regard to paragraph 2 (d) of resolution 1343 (2001), the Government of Liberia stated that it had no additional information beyond the steps it had taken previously, prior to the submission of my first report to the Council, of 30 April 2001 (S/2001/424). In paragraph 14 (a) and (b) of my second report (S/2001/1025), I outlined the measures that the Government of Liberia had adopted with regard to paragraph 2 (d) of resolution 1343 (2001).

B. Information from the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone

12. In my previous reports on Liberia's compliance with the demands in paragraph 2 (a) to (e) of resolution 1343 (2001), I informed the Council that UNAMSIL had repeatedly stated that it did not possess the capacity to monitor compliance with that paragraph of the resolution.

13. For the present report, UNAMSIL reported that it had not observed any indications of the Government of Liberia's continued support of the Revolutionary United Front Party (RUFP), financially or logistically. This reference to RUFP by UNAMSIL, as the members of the Council are aware, stems from the fact that the RUF rebel group no longer exists in Sierra Leone, having been supplanted by RUFP for the legislative and presidential elections that were held in that country in May 2002.

C. Information provided by the Economic Community of West African States

14. An ECOWAS Mission, composed of Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria and the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat, was dispatched to Liberia from 29 September to 4 October 2002 to verify Liberia's compliance with the demands contained in resolution 1343 (2001) as requested in paragraph 11 of resolution 1408 (2002).

15. The Mission met with officials of the Government of Liberia. It also met with representatives of international organizations, diplomatic missions and members of civil society groups, collectively referred to as independent sources.

Expulsion of members of the Revolutionary United Front from Liberia (paragraph 2 (a) of resolution 1343 (2001))

16. According to the Government of Liberia, all known ex-RUF members have been expelled from Liberia. About 12,500 Sierra Leonean refugees in Liberia have been repatriated, and 25,000 more are awaiting repatriation with the cooperation of UNHCR and the Government of Sierra Leone.

17. Independent sources indicated that there was no evidence of the presence of RUF members in Liberia. Some sources however alleged that some RUF members may have been integrated into the security service of Liberia.

Financial and military support to the Revolutionary United Front (paragraph 2 (b) of resolution 1343 (2001))

18. The Government of Liberia indicated that the question of financial and military support to RUF was no longer relevant because RUF had been disarmed and was no longer in existence as a fighting force. It had been transformed into a political party and had participated in the Sierra Leonean elections.

19. The personalities and organizations consulted could not provide any proof of Liberian Government support to RUF.

Direct and indirect importation of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone (paragraph 2 (c) of resolution 1343 (2001))

20. The Government stated that most of the diamond-producing areas were in the combat zone in north-eastern Liberia and that it was closer and easier to get diamonds to Sierra Leone than to Monrovia. Furthermore, the Liberian economy did not have the capacity to sustain the diamond trade.

21. Independent sources indicated that there was no proof of direct importation of rough diamonds to Liberia from Sierra Leone. There was consensus that the Government of Liberia received taxes from diamond concessions but had no control over the diamond trade. Those sources indicated that there was now a reverse flow of indirect trade in diamonds from Liberia to neighbouring countries.

Freezing of funds and assets of the Revolutionary United Front in Liberia (paragraph 2 (d) of resolution 1343 (2001))

22. The Government stated that it was not aware of any funds or assets belonging to RUF in Liberia. The only known account belonging to Foday Sankoh, with an amount of US$ 500, had been frozen.

23. Independent sources contacted quoted the Government of Liberia as stating that it had frozen all RUF financial resources in Liberia, amounting to $500 found in the bank account of Foday Sankoh. However, it was not possible to verify this information because of the confidentiality of banking transactions.

Certificate of origin regime for trade in rough diamonds (paragraph 15 of resolution 1343 (2001))

24. The Government of Liberia has tried to comply with the Security Council resolution on the issue of a certificate of origin for rough diamonds. The Government alleges that its efforts have been stalled by some powerful interests in the Security Council. Consequently, the Government has not been able to establish a certificate of origin. However, Liberia has continued to participate in the Kimberly Process and efforts are ongoing to reach agreement on the certificate of origin.

Embargo on arms and ammunition (paragraph 5 (a) of resolution 1343 (2001))

25. The Government reminded the Mission that the Security Council, the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council and the African Union had all acknowledged that there is a war in Liberia. It therefore considered that the arms embargo against Liberia was not in consonance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. It claimed that, because of the war, there were now more arms in the subregion than before.

26. Independent sources believed that the Government of Liberia had continued to import arms and ammunition. The sources underlined the legitimate right of the Government to self-defence in a war situation. An aircraft suspected to be carrying arms was said to have crashed near Robertsfield airport in Monrovia on 15 February 2002.

D. Conditions for peace and security in the Mano River Union area

27. The Mission, after reviewing all the information received and recognizing that peace in Liberia was indispensable for stability in the subregion, made a number of recommendations, the most salient of which are:

- Urges the three countries of the Mano River Union to consolidate the progress achieved towards the restoration of peace and stability in the Mano River basin, since the Rabat Summit held on 27 February 2002.
- Encourages the three member countries to continue to work for the restoration of confidence through dialogue at all levels.
- Calls on the three member countries to scrupulously respect the Treaty on Non-Aggression and Security Cooperation which they signed in 1986.
- Encourages the Government of Liberia to create a favourable environment for an all-inclusive national dialogue by holding a truly national reconciliation conference in which all groups of Liberian society, both at home and abroad, will participate.
- Urges the Government of Liberia to make efforts to provide security guarantees and promote the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations as necessary conditions for peace and the return of donors and foreign investors to Liberia.
- Urges the international community to assist Liberia in establishing a certificate of origin regime for the trade in rough diamonds.
- Calls on the international community to assist the Joint Commission of the Mano River Union to build institutional capacity to deal with the problems of dissidents.

III. Observations

28. There is no doubt that the ongoing conflict continues to take a huge toll on the Liberian population, in terms of the growing numbers of dead and wounded, population displacements and the attendant human suffering. Recent reports that the

Government of Liberia has proposed the allocation of half of its 2002/2003 budget to defence and security requirements is a powerful indication that no immediate relief is in sight. The recent crisis in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire, which already hosts a huge Liberian refugee population, is likely to complicate the security situation in the subregion.

29. Given the urgent need to find an early solution to the Liberian conflict, I welcome all efforts, including the recent establishment of the International Contact Group on Liberia, the continuation of the Rabat process and the reaffirmation by the Security Council of its support for ECOWAS initiatives. I do not believe that sustainable solutions to Liberia's multiple challenges can be found through military means. I therefore regard as encouraging a recent indication by the Government of Liberia that it is prepared to engage in dialogue with dissidents of the movement Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), as long as they agree to stop fighting.

30. In conclusion, I wish to urge the Security Council again to remain engaged with Liberia and its people. Peace in Liberia is vital not only for efforts to put an end to the suffering of the Liberian people but also to help consolidate the important gains made in Sierra Leone within the wider framework of promoting sustainable peace and security in the subregion.